2020: A YEAR IN NEW CONTEXT
As of December 31, 2020

ABOUT US

$64.1 MILLION
held in assets as of December 31, 2020

35 FAMILY MEMBERS
from 3 generations serve
on our Board of Trustees

10 COUNTIES & JURISDICTIONS
in Maryland comprise our giving area

257 MEMBERS MAKE
UP THE KNOTT FAMILY
– all living direct descendants of Marion
& Henry Knott, their spouses, and children

5 PROGRAM AREAS
make up our grant portfolio

3 FULL-TIME
staff members work in our office

MORE THAN $65 MILLION
IN FOUNDATION GRANTS
have been awarded since our
founding in 1977

REFLECTIONS
ON OUR GIVING

The COVID-19 pandemic created a host of unforeseen challenges for nonprofits’ operations and program delivery. We witnessed our grantee community rethink how to provide services when faced with lack of access to school buildings, delays in permitting and government grant payments, the postponement of hiring processes for new staff, and interruptions to in-person programming as many of us figured out how to transition to a virtual environment.

At every turn, we listened closely to our grantees to better understand their challenges and offer flexibility with our grant awards. We consolidated our three grant cycles into two, thereby streamlining our ability to respond to the dire needs facing the community and our grant recipients. We entertained a greater number of general operating requests. We also authorized more than triple the number of grant modifications in 2020 compared to previous years – a statistic we see as proof of the innovation and creativity happening on the ground in Baltimore and beyond, which kept nonprofit programming afloat during the pandemic.

“Responding to the needs of today, investing in the promise of tomorrow,” is the theme of our 2020 annual report. This theme portrays our vision and actions throughout the year. As a philanthropic foundation, we are called to address problems in our current environment, while maintaining focus on the opportunity the future will bring.

COVID, economic challenges, and societal divides were part of the daily discourse in 2020. While dispiriting at times, we were inspired by our community’s ability to adapt, pull together, innovate, and persevere.

In the first month of the pandemic, the Knott Foundation responded by deploying our discretionary grant program to create a COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund, which awarded $80,000 to organizations addressing food security and housing. Like many, we also transitioned our governance and operations to a largely virtual format. Throughout the year, we continued to fulfill our mission by providing much-needed resources to organizations in education, Catholic activities, human services, health care, and the arts, as outlined in this annual report.

Our founders were committed to helping those in crisis, and we are proud to continue that legacy by responding to the immediate needs of our community and investing in the hope and promise tomorrow will bring.

Thank you for your ongoing interest in our mission and work.

Lindsay Gallagher
President, Board of Trustees

Kelly Medinger
Executive Director
TOWARDS A BETTER LIFE

SBLC/Learning Works uses education grant to upgrade technology and expand their digital literacy agenda for adult learners

“we give individuals a second chance to take the first step towards a better life,” proclaims Sid Wilson, Executive Director of SBLC/Learning Works.

ABOUT SBLC
SBLC/Learning Works (formerly South Baltimore Learning Center) began 30 years ago as a tutoring program for adults learning to read. Since then, the organization has grown to serve approximately 700 adults each year by providing pathways to educational advancement and workforce readiness.

“What’s unique about SBLC/Learning Works,” explains Wilson, “is our 1:1 tutoring model via the support of our dedicated volunteers. Whether it’s distance learning or a traditional classroom, our learners can progress at their own pace.”

A DIGITAL AGENDA

The Knott Foundation awarded SBLC/Learning Works a grant to upgrade their technology inventory, including new computers, a mobile Chromebook cart, and software licenses.

“The advantages leveraged from new hardware and software were beyond what we anticipated and created a significant shift in the scope and depth of our digital agenda,” says Brandy Carter, Assistant Executive Director of Literary Education.

A pre-grant survey of learners found that nearly 60% did not know how to operate a computer. While SBLC/Learning Works sought to change that figure, the technology upgrades they made showed success on a number of other fronts: increasing access to devices; improving instruction with just-in-time curriculum based assessment measures; and creating new partnerships for fulfilling career pathways for students.

PATHWAYS TO THE FUTURE

SBLC/Learning Works recently cultivated a relationship with Byte Back, a nonprofit career pathways program in the information technology sector. Their learners now have the opportunity to learn essential computer skills, earn industry certifications, and eventually be placed as Help Desk support technicians or other technology-related positions.

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Partnerships like the one we have with Byte Back are so important,” states Wilson. “They are willing to meet our learners where they are and guide them in the direction of their goals.”

For one learner at SBLC/Learning Works – Odith Sandoval – that goal is to improve her English language skills so she can help her two daughters with their schoolwork. Her teachers describe her as a motivated learner and a natural with virtual tools. Her sister also recently enrolled at SBLC/Learning Works and is working towards earning her high school diploma.

Odith has a positive outlook for the future: “Thank you for everything you guys do for us,” she reflects. “I know this is going to help me in my whole life. From here on, everything is going to be different.”
CATHOLIC ACTIVITIES

BALTIMORE’S CATHOLIC WOMAN OF THE WORLD

Oblate Sisters of Providence use Catholic activities grant to replace the roof on their Chapel and Sacred Heart Hall

Sister Rita Michelle Proctor, OSP, serves as the Superior General of the Oblate Sisters of Providence, an order that she has been a part of for more than 50 years. “I’ve come to understand that God calls us to different walks of life. I felt called to religious life with the Oblates. I remember being attracted by their sense of genuineness and hospitality,” she reflects.

The Catholic faith and the Catholic Church community were of central importance to our founders – it was their lives. Mr. and Mrs. Knott responded to the needs of the clergy both out of gratitude for the compassion their own family had received, and a desire to support the work of men and women of integrity whom they saw serving the needs of the broader community. They supported the development of clergy and lay leaders to strengthen the Catholic Church, the reputation of the Catholic Church, and the Catholic community.

Our founders’ devotion to the Catholic faith and support of the Catholic Church has its roots in family history. Mr. Knott’s grandmother died young, and his own mother and aunt were raised and schooled by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. That act of kindness made a huge impression on Mr. Knott and he felt indebted to repay their generosity. Mr. Knott desired to support the Catholic Church in part because of what the Church had done for his family, and also because of the role that faith played in his life.

The Knott Foundation honors this legacy by supporting organizations and programs that espouse the values and doctrines of the Catholic Church. Through our focus on Catholic activities, we support churches, faith communities, religious orders, retreat houses and spiritual centers.

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Mr. and Mrs. Knott both came from humble beginnings and did not grow up wealthy. As a result, they had sincere compassion for others in need. Mrs. Knott, whose parents died when she was a young teen, had incredible compassion for people undergoing hardships in life. Mr. Knott started out driving a tomato truck, then spent time learning about construction, and eventually launched his own building business. He was given opportunities that changed the trajectory of his own life, and he wanted to do the same for others. They both believed in supporting people who wanted to help themselves and get ahead, and they hoped it would engender in them a spirit of giving and opportunity to pass on to others.

While they prioritized creating opportunity for people, our founders weren’t above meeting basic needs. While living on their family farm and after having achieved success, they worked the land and donated the fruits of their labor to those in need. At another time, Mr. Knott’s children recalled their father being particularly happy. Reportedly he had just gone to a coat manufacturer to buy out the remaining inventory at the end of season, and was on his way to donate the hundred or so coats to Catholic Charities to give to the homeless.

Compelled by their own life experiences and their faith, our founders had sincere compassion for the poor, the hungry, the sick, and in particular for women, children and families in crisis. The Foundation continues this support by meeting many human service needs within the community. Our grants touch numerous areas—from helping to meet people’s basic needs to housing and homelessness, to workforce development, to family and children’s services.

ABOUT ENOCH PRATT LIBRARY

Founded in 1882, the Enoch Pratt Free Library is one of the oldest free public library systems in the United States. It serves Baltimore City residents at its Central location and 21 branches across Baltimore. Their mission is “to empower, enrich, and enhance the quality of life for all through equitable access to information, services, and opportunity.”

The Pratt’s programs extend far beyond books. They offer free legal assistance, career services, and access to social workers, both inside the Library and through outreach programs in the community. “For the longest time the Library has been bordered by its walls, but that has changed,” notes Marilyn Norton, a Librarian with the Mobile Job Center. “We now go to the community that needs us and give them the services they want.”

THE MOBILE JOB CENTER

The Mobile Job Center opened in 2017 and takes skilled employment specialists on the road to neighborhoods with high unemployment, and where access to an existing Pratt location may be challenging. The Center visits laundromats, barber shops, and even stops when people hail them along the road.

Once inside, people have access to one dozen computers, printers, and the Library’s experienced staff. Approximately ten people cycle through the Center every hour. “We help people no matter what stage they are at in the job search process,” says Ryan O’Grady, Mobile Job Center Director. He and his staff teach small classes and offer one-on-one assistance with resume writing, job searches, interviewing skills, and application submissions.

When the Knott Foundation supported the Mobile Job Center with a grant, the Center reached its goal of serving 15,000 people in the first 6 months of the yearlong award period. In the nine months preceding the closures due to COVID-19, the Center had helped 19,500 customers, answered 11,000 questions, and assisted with 687 resumes and 428 job searches.

A WELCOME SURPRISE

“I love the people who don’t know what the Mobile Job Center is, who walk by, get invited inside, and 30 minutes later walk out with a resume on a flash drive and having applied for a few jobs,” reflects McCorkell. “It’s wonderful to see the smile on their face and their surprise to find out the service is available, and that it’s available for free, in their neighborhood.”
Our founders raised a family during an era where good medical care was hard to come by. Hospitals were just beginning to be built as pillars within communities and were not as accessible as they are today. Mr. and Mrs. Knott saw the potential that accessible, quality care had for strengthening the community, and they were also empathetic towards the strife that illness and death causes in a family.

During his lifetime, Mr. Knott used his business acumen and builders experience to purchase and then donate land to Johns Hopkins for their west campus expansion, as well as to other institutions. He knew that having world class medical facilities would bring recognition and strength to the Baltimore community.

Today the Foundation continues our founders’ commitment in health care by supporting compassionate care needs of families and their caregivers. We concentrate on programs that provide curative, preventative, rehabilitative, and palliative care, as well as patient support services.

HASA uses health care grant to provide charitable care services to children and adults in Maryland

A 65-year-old woman named Dolores was referred to HASA (formerly known as the Hearing and Speech Agency) by her ENT for hearing aids. She had profound hearing loss. Even though her family knew she needed hearing aids, they could not afford the cost. They came to HASA for help.

ABOUT HASA
Founded in 1926, HASA’s mission is to connect people to their worlds. Recognizing the critical role of communication in life, HASA provides clinical, educational, and American Sign Language (ASL) Interpretation services to children and adults with the vision “to help them understand and be understood.”

“HASA is Baltimore’s best resource to support individuals with communication differences and disorders like autism, developmental language disorder, and hearing loss,” explains Erin K. Stauder, CEO of HASA. “Left untreated, these conditions can have wide-ranging devastating effects on people’s lives, causing academic problems, social difficulties, and challenges in the workplace.”

CHARITABLE CARE
“We never turn anyone away due to their inability to pay,” states Ilana Glazer, External Relations Director at HASA. In 2020, this meant that nearly 1,000 people received assistance from the HASA Charitable Care Fund, supported with a grant from the Knott Foundation, to access comprehensive audiology, speech-language pathology, and occupational therapy.

The importance of charitable care has heightened with insurance coverage challenges. For example, stuttering treatment is not covered when it occurs spontaneously during childhood (which it most often does), and under Maryland law, hearing aids are provided for those on Medicaid, but not others who might not be able to afford them (like Dolores).

RESTORING SMILES
At HASA, Dolores was fitted for hearing aids at a reduced fee. At her two-week follow-up appointment, she was found smiling and laughing in the clinic waiting room, heavily engaged in a conversation with her son and daughter-in-law. Her family reports that they were not even aware of how much she was missing in life until she got them.

“HASA’s Charitable Care program helps hundreds of people like Dolores to afford the services they need every year, preventing the serious long-term effects of untreated communication challenges,” states Glazer. Indeed, Dolores’ experience of reconnecting with family and friends is just one example of how important HASA’s mission and services are.

“Effective communication is vital to the health of individuals and communities,” concludes Stauder.
The St. Francis Missal is a 12th-century manuscript and beloved to be a relic of touch of St. Francis of Assisi – founder of the Franciscan Friars and the patron saint of Italy, animals, and merchants. The Missal is housed at the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore and was recently exhibited with the support of the Knott Foundation and other funders.

**THE STORY OF THE MISSAL**

In the year 1208, St. Francis of Assisi and two of his followers were debating what God’s plan was for them. Unable to come to agreement, they sought answers at the Church of San Nicolo in Assisi, where Francis often attended. Legend has it that they approached the Missal sitting on the Church’s altar – opened it three times at random – and every time the text on the page implored them to renounce all earthly goods and follow the Lord. This pivotal moment laid the foundation for the Franciscan order.

“The St. Francis Missal is our most frequently requested manuscript,” comments Lynley Anne Herbert, Ph.D., Curator of Rare Books and Manuscripts & Curatorial Chair. “Franciscans from around the world regularly make pilgrimages to the museum to be in its presence.”

**THE RESTORATION PROJECT**

The restoration of the St. Francis Missal is one of the most extensive conservation treatments on a manuscript completed in the 85-year history of the Walters’ Conservation and Technical Research Lab. Decades of use took a toll on the book’s fragile binding, so there was an urgency to restore it. Overall, the project took two years under the careful direction of Abigail Quandt, Head of Book and Paper Conservation, and Cathie Magee, a Fellow funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

The project’s numbers are impressive: 5,000 conservation hours logged; 599 images digitized; 285 manuscript pages preserved; and 30 Walters staff assisting on the project. “We are thrilled to share these scholarly discoveries and to have been able to make this incredible object accessible to all, both onsite and online,” comments Julia Marciari-Alexander, Ph.D., Andrea B. and John H. Laporte Director of the Walters.

**ABOUT THE EXHIBITION**

“Through this exhibit we can tell the story of St. Francis and his followers, St. Clare and St. Anthony, and the impact that they had worldwide,” shares Quandt. The exhibition features the legendary Missal along with 17 other objects, including manuscripts, paintings, ivories, ceramics, and documentation of the Missal’s restoration.

Nearly 6,000 visitors came to witness the story of St. Francis and view the Missal during the six weeks the exhibition was open to the public. (The exhibition was shortened due to the COVID-19 pandemic.) After the exhibition, the St. Francis Missal returned to its home in the Walter’s Rare Book Library. It can also be viewed cover-to-cover on the Walters’ manuscript website, Ex Libris.

“This extensive reconstruction really brought the book back to life, now and for future generations,” concludes Herbert.
## 2020 Grant Awards

### Foundation Grants
- 40 West Assistance and Referral Center, Inc., $15,000
- Archbishop Curley High School, $100,000
- Associated Catholic Charities – Christopher Place, $40,000
- Boys Hope Girls Hope of Baltimore, $10,000
- CASA of Baltimore County, $30,000
- Churches for Streets of Hope, $20,000
- Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Resource Center, $43,264
- Franciscan Center, $55,000
- Franciscan Friars - Our Lady of the Angels Province, Inc., $35,000
- Fusion Partnerships: Tubman House, Baltimore, $10,000
- Genesee Valley Outdoor Learning Center, $16,780
- Highlands School, $35,000
- Junior Achievement of Central Maryland, $60,000
- Loyola Early Learning Center, $56,250
- Manna House, Inc., $80,000
- Maryland Book Bank, $10,000
- Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland, Inc., $40,000
- Pro Bono Counseling Project, $20,000
- Sacred Heart Parish, $73,183
- Sisters Academy of Baltimore, $50,000
- St. Bernardine Church, $75,000
- St. Elizabeth School, $46,686
- St. John's Shelter for Homeless Families, Inc., $10,000
- St. Mary's Outreach Center, $30,000
- St. Veronica Roman Catholic Congregation, $50,000
- Washington County Commission on Aging, Inc., $18,500
- Year Up Baltimore, $25,000

### COVID-19 Emergency Response Grants
- Associated Catholic Charities – Our Daily Bread, $5,000
- Baltimore Hunger Project, $5,000
- Community Assistance Network, $5,000
- Franciscan Center, $5,000
- Hartford Community Action Agency, $5,000
- Helping Up Mission, $5,000
- Interfaith Services Coalition of Hancock, $5,000
- Light House, $5,000
- Manna House, $5,000
- Marian House, $5,000
- Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training, $5,000
- Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland, $5,000
- Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs, $5,000
- St. Francis Neighborhood Center, $5,000
- St. Mary's Outreach Center, $5,000
- St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore, $5,000

### Discretionary Grants
- Baltimore Center Stage, $1,000
- Baltimore SquashWise, $7,250
- Basilica of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Baltimore, $2,500
- Calvert School, $2,500
- Calvert School, $4,000
- Catholic Charities – My Sister's Place, $1,000
- Church of the immaculate Conception, $2,500
- Gilman School, $3,500
- Loyola Blakefield, $1,000
- Mentoring Mentors, $2,500
- Notre Dame Preparatory School, $1,500
- SAFE Center, $3,500
- Saint Casimir Catholic School, $7,500
- Shepherd's Clinic, $2,500
- St. Elizabeth School, $2,500
- St. Paul's School for Boys, $1,250
- St. Paul's School for Girls, $5,000
- UEmpower of Maryland – The Food Project, $1,750

### Boost Grants
- Sisters Circle, $169,000 over two years ($79,000/year 1; $90,000/year 2)

### Values
Working as a family, we are guided by the following shared beliefs and values:

**Understanding**
and responding to the needs of our community through informed grantmaking.

**Respecting**
the values of the Roman Catholic faith.

**Engaging**
in the ongoing education of trustees and staff in the field of philanthropy and the nonprofit community.

**Ensuring**
good stewardship of the resources entrusted to our use.

**Encouraging**
open communication, compassion, respect and trust among community, staff and family.

### Mission
The Marion I. & Henry J. Knott Foundation is a Catholic family foundation committed to honoring our founders’ legacy of generosity to strengthen our community.

### Vision
Our founders Marion and Henry Knott had a vision: To provide resources for nurturing and sustaining family unity through cultural, educational, health care and human service activities in the Roman Catholic community and through the activities of other deserving agencies that the Knott family encouraged and supported. This vision resulted in the establishment of the Marion I. & Henry J. Knott Foundation, Inc. a 501(c)(3) corporation, in 1977.
KNOTT FOUNDATION TRUSTEES
As of December 31, 2020

Dan Gallagher  Martin Knott  John Riehl
David Gallagher  Martin Knott, Jr.  Margie Riehl
Lindsay Gallagher  Owen Knott  Michael Riehl
Michael Gallagher  Teresa Knott  Brooke Rodgers
Emily Hanssen  Brian McDonald  Patrick Rodgers
E.B. Harris  Meghan McDonald  Geralynn Smyth
Kelly Harris  Carroll McGill  John Smyth
Thomas Harris  Peter McGill  Jamie Stodd
Carlisle Hashim  David Porter  Erin Tielsch
Marion Hashim  Joanna Porter  Emmett Voelkel
Erin Knott  Laurel Porter  Ryan Voelkel
Marion Knott  Martin Porter

KNOTT FOUNDATION STAFF

Kelly Medinger  Carol Hoffman  Kathleen McCarthy
Executive Director  Executive Manager  Grants and Information Technology Manager

THE MARION J. & HENRY J. KNOTT FOUNDATION

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